Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 268005

51
ORIGIN ARA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /003 R

66652
DRAFTED BY: ARA/LA:PJDE VOS:MJT
APPROVED BY: ARA/LA:PJDE VOS
---------- 107660
O 061449Z DEC 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 268005

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILLIAM D. ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CARACAS 11981 ACTION SECSTATE DATED 12/4/74;

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 11981(

3.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, VE
SUBJECT: CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND ROMULO BETANCOURT WARN ACTION
DEMOCRATICA ON DANGERS OF CORRUPTION

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRESIDNET CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND EX-PRESIDENT ROMULO BETANCOURT TOLD THE NATIONAL DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE RULING ACCION DEMOCRATICA (AD) PARTY OVER THE PAST WEEKEND THAT MEASURES WERE NEEDED TO ENSURE HONESTY IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. THE DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE AGREED TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND FIGHT CORRUTPION. THE COMMITTEE ALSO ENDORSED PEREZ' PLANS FOR NATIONALIZING THE IRON ORE AND PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES, RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA, AND TOOK VARIOUS INTERNAL PARTY ACTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. AD'S NATIONAL DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE HELD A MEETING IN CARACAS THE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 1. IN A DRAMATIC REPORT T THE DELEGATES, PEREZ CALLED FOR A DETERMINED STRUGGLE AGAINST
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 268005

CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING FIRM PUNISHMENT OF OFFENDERS.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

HE CITED SPECIFIC (BUT MINOR) EXAMPLES OF CORRUPTION IN THE PREVIOUS COPEI ADMINISTRATION'S MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS. IN A BRIEF "MESSAGE OF GREETING" TO THE DELEGATES, BETANCOURT WARNED THAT IF ACCION DEMOCRATICA DOES NOT ADMINISTER PUBLIC FUNDS WITH HONESTY AND INTEGRITY, IT WOULD LOSE PUBLIC SUPPORT AT THE POLLS. BETANCOURT CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF A COMMITTEE OF PARTY ETHICS, MADE UP OF MEN WELL KNOWN FOR THEIR HONESTY AND CHARACTER.

2. ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, BETANCOURT CALLED FOR SUPPORT OF "REALISTIC" POLICIES, SUCH AS THOSE FOLLOWED BY PEREZ. HE CRITICIZED SOME AD MILITANTS AS SOMETIMES BEING MORE RADICAL IN THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAN THE FAR LEFT PARTIES, PARTICULARLY ON THE ISSUE OF NATIONALIZATION OF IRON ORE AND PETROLEUM. HE ALSO INTIMATED THE NEED FOR A SOBER, RESPONSIBLE AND NON-INFLAMMMATORY POLICY TOWARDS THE U.S., NOTING THAT "EVEN IF THE ELEPHANT IS A FRIEND, HE CAN HAVE A NIGHTMARE AND MOVE HIS FOOT AND CRUSH US."

3. THE DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE RESPONDED TO THESE STRICTURES BY ESTABLISHING A PARTY COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND VOWING STRONG REMEDIES TO COMBAT CORRUPTION. THE COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVED A RESOLUTION STRONGLY SUPPORTING PRESIDENT PEREZ' POLICIES CONCERNING NATIONALIZATION OF THE PETROLEUM AND IRON ORE INDUSTRIES AND CALLING FOR A CAMPAIGN TO INFORM THE PARTY RANK-AND-FILE OF THE CHARACTER OF THESE POLICIES. ON CUBA, THE COMMITTEE SUPPORTED THE GOV'S POSITION AT THE QUITO MEETING AND RECOMMENDED RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH HAVANA, WHILE MAKING IT CLEAR THAT THE TIMING OF SUCH AN ACTION SHOULD BE LEFT TO PRESIDENT PEREZ.

4. WHILE SUPPORTING PRESIDENT PEREZ, THE DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE ALSO MADE PLAIN ITS DESIRE FOR FULLER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT. TO HELP AVOID INTRA-PARTY FRICTIONS, THE DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE AGREED AT THIS TIME TO PROHIBIT INTERNAL CAMPAIGNING WITHIN THE PARTY FOR SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE 1978 ELECTIONS. THE COMMITTEE PLEDGED "CORDIAL" RELATIONS WITH THE OTHER VENEZUELAN POLITICAL PARTIES ON MATTERS OF "HIGH NATIONAL INTEREST". THE COMMITTEE ALSO RECOGNIZED THE EXISTENCE OF SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT AND URGED THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

GOV TO GIVE THESE ISSUES TOP PRIORITY.

5. AT A CABINET MEETING ON DECMBER 3, PRESIDENT PEREZ FIRMLY ENDORSED THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGN, AND THE MINISTERS ARE SCHEDULED TO EXAMINE THIS PROGRAM CAREFULLY AT A MEETING ON DECEMBER 4. FOLLOWING THE DECEMBER 3 MEETING WITH PEREZ, INTERIOR MINISTER PINERUA ORDAZ STATED THAT "THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO TAKE ALL CHARGES OF CORRUPTION TO THE COURTS".

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

6. COMMENT: PEREZ' DRAMATIC REPORT TO AD ON CORRUPTION REFLECTS HIS LONGSTANDING SENSITIVITY TO THIS PROBLEM. BOTH HE AND BETANCOURT SEEM GENUINELY CONCERNED THAT CORRUPTION, WHICH VENEZUELA'S MUSHROOMING WEALTH MAKES MORE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL THAN EVER BEFORE, COULD VITIATE THE GOV'S PROGRAMS AND LEAD TO POLITICAL DISASTER FOR AD. EVEN THOUGH BETANCOURT HAS MADE CLEAR THAT HE DOES NOT PLAN TO RE-ENTER ACTIVE POLITICS, HIS INFLUENCE OVER THE PARTY REMAINS STRONG. THUS FAR BETANCOURT SEEMS TO BE DIRECTING HIS EFFORTS TOWARDS SETTING A HIGH MORAL STANDARD FOR THE PARTY, QUIETLY IMPROVING RELATIONS WITHIN AND BETWEEN AD AND OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES, AND ADVOCATING A REALISTIC VENEZUELAN FOREIGN POLICY.
MCCLINTOCK UNQUOTE KISSINGER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CORRUPTION, POLITICAL SITUATION, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, PARTY MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE268005
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/LA:PJDE VOS:MJT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740354-0907
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741254/aaaabtth.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 SEP 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <13 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND ROMULO BETANCOURT WARN ACTION DEMOCRATICA ON DANGERS OF CORRUPTION
TAGS: PINT, VE, (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES), (BETANCOURT, ROMULO)
To: LIMA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005